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AUTHOR Curtis, Deb; Carter, Margie
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ABSTRACT

This handbook is a resource for preschool curriculum planning. Chapter 1, "Begin with Yourself," provides checklists, comparative charts, and guiding questions for self-assessment of knowledge and experiences. Chapter 2, "Revitalizing the Environment," provides tools to assess the learning environment and makes suggestions about space, schedule, classroom routines, and materials. Chapter 3, "Bringing the Child Back in DAP," emphasizes self-directed activities to improve observation skills and give sample teacher journal entries. Chapter 4, "Redefining Curriculum Themes," includes activities to enable teachers to reconsider their approach to theme planning, including materials and suggestions for the themes of meaningful work, physical development, creative expression, transformation activities, and learning skills. Children's projects are provided as examples to analyze. Chapter 5, "Caring for Infants and Toddlers," focuses on building relationships with this age group. Chapter 6, "Organizing and Communicating Your Approach to Curriculum Planning," provides several schema for planning curriculum and includes self-directed activities to strengthen teachers' ability to communicate the value of their role. Chapter 7, "Developing Yourself," includes a self-assessment checklist, encourages thinking in new ways about the teachers' role, and discusses teacher dispositions to cultivate. Resource materials are recommended for environments, curriculum planning, and teacher roles; infants and toddlers; observing children and the natural world; professional and personal growth and inspiration. A list of useful supplies is also included. (KDFB)